CLAIMS

1. A computer implemented method for optimizing security features designed to provide a level of security in a security document, comprising:

processing data relating to selected security features, said security features each having associated compatibility and relative rating information;

revising said selected security features to resolve any compatibility issues;

evaluating said relative rating information of said selected security features to determine a document security rating; and

presenting said document security rating.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting security features for selection.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said security features are presented categorized by purpose.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising providing a selectable link for at least one said security feature, which when selected presents information which describes the associated security feature and explains strengths and weaknesses of the associated security feature.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising recommending said security features based on security document type and desired security level.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising providing a link for at least one of said security document type, which when selected present an example of the associated security document type.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said example includes recommended security features and providing associated links which when selected explains each associated security feature.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising requesting document design information to help assess compatibility issues.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said document design information includes use of security document, type of document paper, storage requirements, printer type, threat environment assessment, type of document tracking, type of document authentication, and type of document shipping.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein certain said security features are made unselectable based upon received said document design information.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said document security rating includes a rating of how well said selected security features will protect the security document against different forms of attack and relative ease of authentication of the security document.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said different forms of attack include tampering, copying, counterfeiting, and accessing, and said rating is provided for each attack type.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said authentication includes overt, covert, and mechanical, and said rating is provided for each authentication type.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein resolving said compatibility issue involves providing a warning, and suggesting at least two possible solutions for resolving said compatibility issue.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising viewing a relative cost assessment for selected features.

16. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting a link to common questions and

concerns.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said data relating to said selected security features is obtained from a database.

18. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing a protection disclaimer if said rating for at least one said attack type is deficient, and providing security feature suggestions that will provide the security document with adequate protection and performance in the specified attack type area.

19. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing a protection disclaimer if said rating for at least one said authentication type is deficient, and providing security feature suggestions that will provide the security document with adequate protection and performance in the specified authentication type area.

20. A computer-readable medium capable of instructing a processor of a computer system to perform optimization of security features designed to provide a level of security in a security document, the optimization being carried out by the steps of:

 processing data relating to selected security features, said security features each having associated compatibility and relative rating information;

 revising said selected security features to resolve any compatibility issues;

 evaluating said relative rating information of said selected security features to determine a document security rating; and

 presenting said document security rating.